

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL:MS

APPROVED BY EUR/WE - ROBERT E. BARBOUR

EUR - MR. ARMITAGE (DRAFT)

S/AM - AMB. MCCLOSKEY (DRAFT)

BIB - MR. ROBERTS

----- 049365

R 112144Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SP, SOPN

SUBJECT: RADIO LIBERTY

REF: MADRID 841

1. DAVID ABSHIRE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING, TOLD MCCLOSKEY YESTERDAY HE (ABSHIRE) IS CONCERNED THAT UNSETTLED STATE OF RADIO LIBERTY MAY ARISE IN PENDING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON BIB FUNDING, AND IF IT DOES IT COULD UNFAVORABLY AFFECT SOME CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD SPAIN. ABSHIRE ALSO CALLED EUR, SAYING HE UNDERSTANDS SENATORS HUMPHREY AND PERCY MAY RAISE THE RADIO LIBERTY CASE DURING HEARINGS ON THE NEW TREATY WITH SPAIN.

2. FROM REFTEL WE ARE AWARE, OF COURSE, THAT VIEWS
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OF DIR GEN-OF-RADIO AND TELEVISION ARE-NOT RPT NOT

THOSE OF GOS. WOULD BE HELPFUL TO KNOW, HOWEVER
IF FONMIN HAS BEEN ABLE TO FOLLOW UP WITH INFORMATION
MINISTRY AS PROMISED IN REFTTEL, AND HOW FONMIN PROPOSES
TO HANDLE PROBLEM POSED BY EXPIRATION OF RL LEASE ON
23 MAR 76. THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT RUMORED GOS
COMMITMENT TO YUGOSLAVIA TO BAR ANTI-TITO CROATIAN
BROADCASTS (AS A PRELUDE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS -- BELGRADE 618) MAY FORESHADOW
SIMILAR ACTIONS TOWARD RADIO LIBERTY AS GOS
RAPPROCHEMENT WITH USSR AND EASTERN EUROPE PROGRESSES.

3. ABSHIRE WILL BE IN EUROPE LATTER PART OF FEBRUARY
TO INSPECT RFE/RL OPERATIONS PRIOR TO CONGRESSIONAL
AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION HEARINGS BEGINNING IN
MARCH. HIS PRESENT INTENTION IS TO VISIT MADRID
DURING WEEK OF FEBRUARY 23 AND HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET
WITH MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INFORMATION AND
TOURISM, AND INTERIOR, PREFERABLY FEBRUARY 26-27.
HE WOULD HOPE THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCOMPANY
HIM. HE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON VISIT AND
TACTICS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS TIME ELEMENT AND PRE-
PARATIONS FOR CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ARE NOW QUITE PRESSING
AND THERE IS LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN HIS SCHEDULE. INGERSOLL

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